retirement are still in employment in the subsidiaries of Coal India Limited; and

(c) if so, the details of action taken to rectify and check this illegal practice?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise in view of reply given to (a) above.

IRDP in Assam

*103. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the total allocation made against Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) in Assam during last five years, district-wise, amount actually utilised, the number of beneficiaries who received and repaid loans, bank-wise;

(b) the reasons for poor utilisation of funds and the methods devised to improve;

(c) whether the Assam Government has proposed to delink IRDP from bank finances;

(d) if so, the details thereof, including the basis of alternative finance pattern proposed, the benefits to be derived over the existing system; and

(e) the action taken on the proposal and by when it is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL): (a) A statement indicating district-wise total allocation, amount utilised and number of beneficiaries who received loans is annexed [*See* Appendix 186, Annexure No. 17] Bank-wise information is monitored by the State Level Bankers' Committee (SLBC).

(b) The State Government of Assam has reported that reasons for poor utilisation of allocated funds is mainly on account of the recurrence of devastating floods every year, preoccupation of block officials and functionaries with emergent situations such as flood etc., cumbersome procedure in the banks for grant of loans. To improve the situation, simplification of procedure and better co-ordination with financial institutions has been established at State Level Bankers' Committee (SLBC) and District Level Co-ordination Committee (DLCC).

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Assam Government has proposed that when banks are not cooperating, the loans are provided by Panchayats/ SHGs, Farmer's Group, voluntary organisation, SC/ST Boards, Autonomous Councils etc. It is also suggested that when such organisations can not contribute, there should be outright de-linking of subsidy from loan.

(e) The proposal is under consideration of the Ministry.

Racket in poverty alleviation programmes in Bihar

*104. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA': Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the massive racket in Bihar's poverty alleviation programmes, as reported in the Hindustan Times of 12th February, 1999;

(b) if so, what steps have been initiated in this regard, in the case of Centrally funded schemes; and

(c) if not, whether Government proposes to take any action?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL): (a) to (c) Government is aware of the allegations appeared in the Press. The State Government has been requested to enquire into the allegations and furnish a report.